

Montana Transportation Commission

August 17, 2005 teleconference

In attendance:

Bill Kennedy, Transportation Commission Chair
Kevin Howlett, Transportation Commissioner
Rick Griffith, Transportation Commissioner
Jim Lynch, Director –Montana Department of
Transportation (MDT)

Tim Reardon, MDT Chief Counsel
Loran Frazier, MDT Chief Engineer
Lorelle Demont, Commission Secretary

Please note: the complete recorded minutes are available for review on the commission's website at http://www.mdt.state.mt.us/trans_comm/. You may request a compact disc (containing the audio files, agenda, and minutes) from the transportation secretary at (406) 444-7200 or ldemont@mt.gov. Alternative accessible formats of this document will be provided upon request. For additional information, please call (406) 444-7200. The TTY number is (406) 444-7696 or 1-800-335-7592.

The meeting began at 10 am.

Alberton-E & W fire repair on Interstate 90 west of Missoula

Chairman Kennedy read the resolution prepared by Tim Reardon. Lynch said the importance of this is the weather; we need to get the retaining wall repaired as soon as possible, because if we lose the retaining wall, we lose the Interstate.

Commissioner Griffith moved to approve the resolution; Commissioner Howlett seconded the motion. All three commissioners present voted aye, with Commissioner Kottel voting aye in absentia (she sent her vote in via e-mail in advance of the meeting).

Secondary 323 project (B)

Lynch provided an update on what has happened since the commission granted authority on July 28, 2005 in Baker to readvertise this project following termination of the previous contract with Frost Construction, and to award another contract. Both bids we received were higher than the engineers' estimate. A letter from Frazier and Reardon dated August 11, 2005 explains the reasons for the discrepancy. The bid was not adjusted to reflect the cost of hauling in gravel that meets specifications. Also, the amount of remedial work is somewhat of an unknown until the contractor actually starts working on site. The cost of redoing work was not included in our engineers' estimate.

Commissioner Griffith asked if what the contractor bid includes the redo. The answer was yes.

Frazier awarded the contract to Wickens Construction Inc. in the amount of \$6,150,369.99 on August 11, 2005.

Reardon noted that we are asking for \$185,000 back from Frost Construction for overpayment made on certain items. We recently received our eleventh claim from them; that brings the total amount of the claims from Frost to over \$3 million on a \$6 million job.

The meeting adjourned at 10:17 am.

Bill Kennedy, Chairman
Montana Transportation Commission

Jim Lynch, Director
Montana Department of Transportation

Lorelle Demont, Secretary
Montana Transportation Commission